

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 01110 231943Z

61
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /077 W
----- 013105

R 231938Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7563
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 01110

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MV, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH PLANS FOR GAN ISLAND

REF: NEW DELHI 0906 (NOTAL)

1. FROM DISCUSSIONS AT THE FCO WE CAN CONFIRM THAT
BRITISH ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED GAN ISLAND NOT BECOME
AVAILABLE TO ANOTHER POWER WITH INTERESTS POSSIBLY INIMI-
CAL TO THE WEST WHEN BRITISH GIVE UP THEIR AIR FACILITY
THERE. BRITISH PLAN IS TO TRY TO RETAIN THEIR LIEN
UNTIL 1986 AS AGREEMENT WITH MALDIVES PROVIDES. IF
MALDIVIANS PRESS FOR RETURN OF ISLAND, HOWEVER (PER PARA
3 REFTEL), BRITISH HOPE TO NEGOTIATE SOME SORT OF
UNDERSTANDING THAT AIRSTrip WILL NOT BE LEASED OUT TO
ANOTHER COUNTRY. THEY ARE REASONABLY SURE THEY WILL BE
SUCCESSFUL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 01110 231943Z

2. ALL BRITISH TOLD MALDIVIAN PRIMIN ZAKI DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO UK WAS THAT THEY PLAN TO REMOVE THEIR PRESENCE FROM GAN BY MARCH 1976. THEY ALSO INTIMATED SOME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING TO MAKE UP FOR LOST REVENUE TO MALDIVIAN ECONOMY AS A RESULT OF BRITISH DEPARTURE.

3. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS AT PRESENT STAFFING OUT EXACT DEPARTURE TIMETABLE. MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT IS STAFFING OUT AN OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. WE HAD BEEN TOLD THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO 3-4 MILLION POUNDS SPACED OVER PERIOD OF 5-6 YEARS, THOUGH LATEST WORD IS SUM MORE LIKE 2-3 MILLION. AIM WOULD BE TO GIVE IT IN FORM OF ADDITIONAL PLEDGES FOR PROJECT ASSISTANCE THROUGH ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, HOPING THIS MIGHT STIMULATE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHERS WHO HAVE AT TIMES EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS, SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, AND US. BRITISH EXPECT TO SEND A STUDY GROUP TO MALDIVES TO LOOK INTO POTENTIAL PROJECTS FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE BY END OF MARCH. NONE OF THIS THINKING HAS YET BEEN COMMUNICATED TO MALDIVIANS, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, OR INDEED TO HMG MINISTERS FOR APPROVAL. ADDRESSEES PLEASE PROTECT.

4. FYI. BRITISH GAINED A VERY GOOD IMPRESSION OF ZAKI AND OTHER OFFICIAL MALDIVIANS DURING THEIR VISIT HERE. THEY CONSIDER ZAKI A CANNY FELLOW WHO KEEPS HIS CARDS CLOSE TO HIS VEST, BUT ALSO A PRACTICAL MAN WHO SHOULD NOT GIVE TROUBLE.

SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, AIR FORCE, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON01110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750026-0505
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750127/aaaaaxnb.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NEW DELHI 0906
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH PLANS FOR GAN ISLAND
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EFIN, MV, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006